

Mimulus Memo



JUNE 2019

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EVENTS

JUNE

- 20 – Chapter Meeting, 6pm
- Program, 7pm

JULY

- 18 – No meeting

AUGUST

- 15 – No meeting

SEPTEMBER

- 19 – Chapter Meeting, 6pm
- Program, 7pm

Super Bloom 2019: A Photo Journal

by Nancy Nies



Photos by Nancy Nies

Part One

March 19 — *Eschscholzia californica*

EACH OCCURRENCE OF RAINFALL IN OUR AREA THIS PAST winter brought Kern CNPS members a bit more hope that conditions might be right for a good showing of spring wildflowers, but little did we know that Mother Nature had a super bloom in store for us in 2019! Paul and I got “out and about” as much as possible this spring, enjoying wildflowers in Kern County and beyond — even as far afield as Indiana. For a shutter-bug like me, it was an irresistible opportunity. The only difficulty was deciding on just one or two photos to represent each date. Here’s the first half my photo journal, with some highlights of the incredible wildflower display we witnessed in the spring of 2019.



March 3 — *Phacelia tanacetifolia*

MARCH 3 – *Phacelia tanacetifolia*: A short hike into the hills just east of Hart Park led us to this south-facing hillside, lavender with phacelia, with the orange of *Eschscholzia californica* (California poppies) providing colorful contrast. Also blooming in abundance that day, in that little canyon, were *Dichelostemma capitatum* (blue dicks), and *Peritoma arborea* (bladderpod). In addition, we spotted a *Gilia* sp., and *Caulanthus coulteri* (Coulter's jewelflower).

MARCH 19 – *Eschscholzia californica* (California poppies): Seeing this beautiful hillside of poppies, mixed with *Lupinus benthamii* (spider lupine), was our reward for hiking an hour or so up the Kern Canyon Trail. Driving up the canyon to the trailhead, we had marveled at the record number of poppies carpeting the canyon walls. The trail took us through thick stands of *Amsinckia* sp. (fiddleneck) and *Plagiobothrys* sp. (popcorn flower), and also afforded innumerable sightings of *Phacelia douglasii* (Douglas' phacelia), *Calandrinia menziesii* (red maids), as well as some jewelflower, blue dicks, *Castilleja exserta* (owl's clover), *Claytonia perfoliata* (miner's lettuce), and *Nemophila menziesii* (baby-blue-eyes).

MARCH 22 – *Diplacus pictus* (*Mimulus pictus*) (calico monkeyflower): On an afternoon visit to the home of **Lucy Clark** and **Clyde Golden**, in the foothills near Woody, CNPS members were treated to the sight of our chapter's rare logo flower, blooming prolifically in its favorite habitat, around granite outcrops. (Lucy estimated this year's bloom to be in the thousands!) The rolling hills were covered with fiddleneck and popcorn flower — several species of each, according to Clyde — and there were also blue dicks and spider lupine to enjoy.



MARCH 22-- *Diplacus pictus* also known as *Mimulus pictus* (calico monkeyflower)

MARCH 27 – *Lupinus benthamii* (spider lupine) was just one of the many species gracing hillsides and roadsides along Woody Road on that overcast morning. There were broad purple swaths of spider lupine and blue dicks, offering a counterpoint to the light-lavender *Gilia tricolor* (bird's-eye gilia), white popcorn



Clockwise from top left: **MARCH 22** — *Amsinckia* sp. and *Plagiobothrys* sp.; **MARCH 27** — *Lupinus benthamii*; **MARCH 31** — *Nemophila menziesii*; **APRIL 3** — *Eschscholzia californica* and *Phacelia tanacetifolia* near Hart Park.

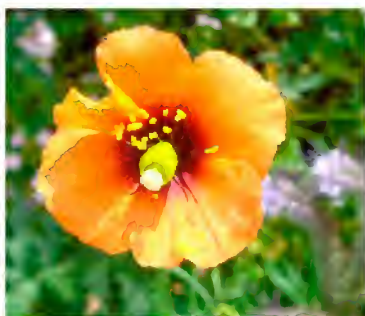
flower and light-orange fiddleneck blanketing many hillsides — like the gilia-covered one in this photo's background.

MARCH 31 – *Nemophila menziesii* (baby-blue-eyes) was the main attraction when we visited our land near Tehachapi, at an elevation of 4500 feet, on this sunny afternoon. We have enjoyed displays of this charming flower in this place for over twenty years, but Paul and I agreed that this spring it was at its best and most prolific. We also discovered a good number of other early-bloomers like *Lomatium* (wild parsley), bird's-eye gilia, red maids, and miner's lettuce.

APRIL 3 – *Papaver heterophyllum* (wind poppy): This eye-catching flower — part of a multicolored display of California poppies, fiddleneck, phacelia, lupine, jewelflower and clarkia — was adorning a north-facing slope when we returned to the same little canyon east of Hart Park that we had visited exactly a month before.

All of this was only the beginning of a flower-filled spring. Over the next six weeks, we would be delighted over and over by this year's super bloom.

In **Part Two**, to appear in the **September** issue: *Super Bloom 2019, continued*.



APRIL 3 -- *Papaver heterophyllum* (wind poppy)



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

CNPS is the leader for providing reliable information on California native plants and plant conservation. Comprehensive information about California's flora and vegetation communities is available throughout the state for conservation and educational purposes. CNPS's leadership influences personal ethics and actions, as well as public policy for native plant protection.

Chapter Meetings

upcoming TOPICS

Thursday, June 20, 2019 - 7 pm

Presenter: **Jorge Ochoa**, Chair,
Horticulture Dept.,
Long Beach City College,
Topic: *Griffith Park Fire - Part Deux*

JULY & AUGUST — NO MEETINGS

Thursday, September 19, 2019 - 7 pm

Presenter: **Ron Dietz**, founder, Dietz
Hydroseeding Co.
Topic: *Hydroseeding*

Thursday, October 17, 2019 - 7 pm

Presenters: **Kern CNPS members**
Topic: *How to Use Wildflower Apps
and Calflora*

Thursday, November 21, 2019 - 7 pm *

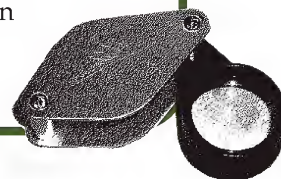
Presenter: **Ellen & Brian Cypher**
Topic: *The San Joaquin Desert: Ecologically
Misunderstood and Overlooked.*

All chapter meetings are held the **3rd Thursday** of each month, usually at 1300 17th Street, Room 1A or 1B, Bakersfield, CA. **Check website for any change of venue.**

Meeting times:

6 pm — Discussion groups on plant identification and native plant gardening

7 pm — Program presentation



A Thank You from Cynthia Powell

February 8, 2019

Dear Kern CNPS,

Thank you for your \$200 donation to Calflora. We appreciate your support. It was also lovely to meet many of you when I visited last year!

Sincerely,
Cynthia Powell



Utah juniper, Fish Lake District, near Cedar City, Utah, SEPT. 2007.

**President's
Message:
Utah juniper
(*Juniperus
osteosperma*)
in Kern County**

by Rich Spjut

CALIFORNIA AND Utah junipers are distinguished more by their geography than by their morphology. Only the California juniper is currently recognized in Kern County (in addition to Sierra juniper) by the Jepson Manual and the Kern County Flora; however, I occasionally see junipers that fit the key

characters for Utah juniper, while it may be noted that the **Consortium of California Herbaria** cites records of Utah juniper having been collected just west of Walker Pass and two miles south of Kernville. Most of my observations of the Utah juniper in Kern County are along the Old Kern Canyon Road, Erskine Creek, an OHV area south of Kernville off the east side of Lake Isabella near Kernville, and in Kernville.

The authors for the Jepson Manual treatment of junipers, **Robert P. Adams** and **Jim A. Bartel**, distinguish California juniper as having several trunks, an obvious leaf gland (near mid-leaf), and by the pollen and seed cones developing on separate plants (dioecious), in contrast to the Utah juniper having a single trunk, an obscure leaf gland, and pollen and seed cones on the same plant (monoecious). From my field observations of junipers in California, Nevada, Utah, and elsewhere, the Utah juniper often has multiple trunks, the leaf glands are not always conspicuous on Kern junipers, and the plant's sex habit is probably the most reliable character, 98.1% dioecious

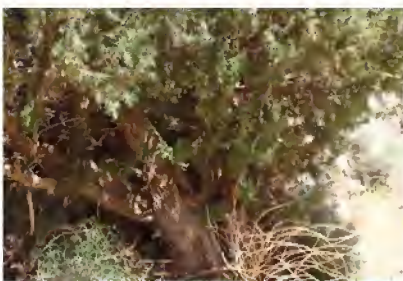
for the California juniper according to Adams (Phytologia 90: 265, 2008), compared to 10% for the Utah juniper.

The best time to sex the junipers in Kern County is early February, when pollen cones reach full development before falling — after shedding pollen, while seed cones still remain from the previous season. Although monoecious and dioecious may be strictly defined by whether both sexes can be found on the same or different plants, there is considerable variation in percentage of pollen and seed cones on monoecious indi-

viduals. In February 2012, I surveyed three populations of Utah juniper in Lovell Canyon in the Spring Mts. of Nevada, an area where only Utah juniper supposedly occurs. Within each population, limited to 10 trees selected as encountered, about 50% were predominantly one sex or the other, but none of the trees were entirely unisexual. Of thousands of cones present on an individual male tree, for example, I estimate 99.9% were pollen cones; but it seems that I could always find a branch with both sexes. The 99.9% was also the case for female trees. While statically a tree may appear mostly male or female, all it takes is one male



Utah junipers just above Kern River in Kernville, DEC 29, 2007. Trees with single trunks, one in foreground, and two much larger in upper right photo; seedlings common.



Utah juniper along Erskine Creek showing trunk near base and branch with both seed and pollen cones. MAY 2016



Above: Male Utah juniper along Erskine Creek Road, April 2019
Below: Male California juniper, Wind Wolves, CNPS field trip MAY 11, 2013

cone and one female cone to make a baby juniper! So it would seem that for all practical purposes, the Nevada populations were monoecious.

I have placed on calflora.org other images of Utah juniper taken along Old Kern Canyon Road. ✿

Thank you to:

- ... **Ann Howald**, for her enjoyable presentation on the flora and beauty of Mono County
- ... **Camdilla Wirth**, for her informative presentation on the Sequoia Riverlands Trust
- ... **Nick Jensen**, for updating us on CNPS conservation issues and projects at the May meeting.
- ... **Monica Tudor** and **Dorie Giragosian**, for selecting plants and traveling many miles to pick up, deliver and organize plants for the the 2019 Bakersfield College GardenFest Plant Sale.
- ... **Clyde Golden** and **Rich Spjut**, for collecting, identifying, labeling and displaying many many plants for the wildflower exhibit at the GardenFest and for **Rich's** presentation on surprising similarities between Kern and Patagonia vegetation.
- ... **Patty Gradek**, for the hours she spent putting together the annual report.
- ... **Dorie Giragosian**, who, with help from **Lucy Clark**, **Gurleen Kaur** and **Fred Chynoweth**, represented us well at the Wind Wolves Spring Nature Festival.
- ... **Vonnie** and **Don Turkal**, for imagining and creating a CNPS display table for CALM's (California Living Museum) birthday, May 18 — building, decorating, creating flower displays and manning it by themselves with help from **Brooke Stutz**, **Lucy Clark** and **Ellen Cypher**.
- ... **Monica Tudor**, who coordinates food and to all the folks who bring edible treats to our meetings. ✿

Garden Notes: Traditional Yard Goes “Native”

by Monica Tudor

LITTLE BY LITTLE, HOME OWNERS AND BUSINESSES are discovering the benefits of drought-tolerant native gardens. Here's my story of how we changed our front yard to a beautiful low-maintenance, drought-tolerant, native garden, and are loving it.

I've wanted to ditch my lawn in favor of a native garden for several years, but had to get my husband, **Ed**, on board before embarking on such a dramatic change.

We already had a nice “California garden” in the back 50 feet of our yard, but otherwise our house looked like any other typical suburban home. The front yard was grass with flowerbeds along the edges, a few purple plum



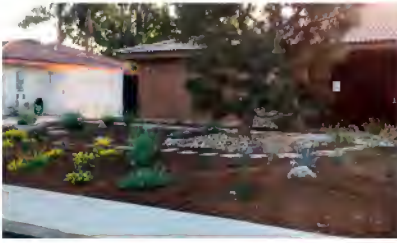
Photos by Monica Tudor

Our “typical” suburban front yard before we stopped watering.

trees and some rose bushes. When we moved in we actually would put in seasonal annuals twice a year. And it looked wonderful! But after a few years of that, we decided to put in plants requiring less maintenance (and that were less expensive). So we put **lantana** in the flowerbeds and set up a border of river cobbles along the house and around the trees. That looked great for a while, too. But we still had lots of maintenance: trimming the **lantana**, pruning the roses and the purple plum trees, putting in rye grass, mowing...you get the picture.

Periodically, I'd suggest converting the front yard, but my husband liked the traditional look. A few years ago during a visit to Palm Springs, he noticed the desert landscaping and started to appreciate its esthetics and water-saving aspect.

Then last year our Kern Chapter of the **California Native Plant Society** had a garden tour and I convinced **Ed** to go with me. Even though our back yard was the first stop on the tour, it turned out that he was impressed with the front yards he saw that day. So, the next time we talked about our front yard, he said we could go “native”!



April 26, 2019

We did our research. We visited the **Friends of Mercy Foundation Walking Park** at **Mercy Southwest Hospital**, designed by **Monji** and using only native plants. (If you have not visited the park, you should — it is a treasure.)

We did drive-bys when we saw homes for sale featuring native or drought-tolerant yards. We looked online and through magazines for inspiration.

Next it was time to draw out our design. Since I already had a California garden in the backyard, I made a list of those native plants which I had found to be easy to grow. I sent a picture of my front yard and my plant list to **Bob Sussman**, owner of **Matilija Nursery** in Moorpark. He gave me suggestions for a design/layout. I made a sketch and showed it to my husband. We negotiated a bit; I got what I wanted and he got what he wanted.

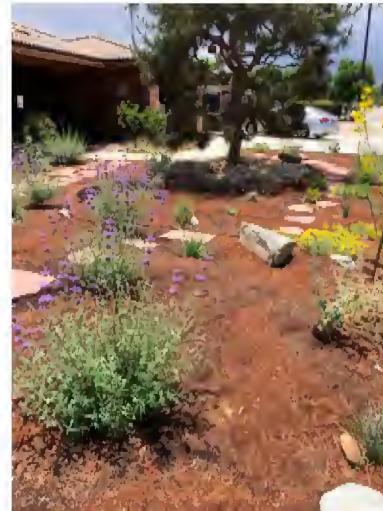
While we were doing our research, we had stopped watering the front yard. We were ready for action! Ed rented a turf-cutter and he and our son cut the Bermuda grass into strips and loaded it into a neighbor's trailer which we had borrowed. I was worried about the Bermuda grass roots — they were still obviously there even after using the turf cutter. I started to dig them out but decided

“I didn’t realize how much I enjoy NOT mowing the yard.”

to rent a bobcat to move the dirt around faster and easier. That was fun but we really found ourselves over our heads.

In the meantime, Ed had contacted **Olga See** from **O See ‘Em Bloom**. Olga was great! She looked at my plant layout/design and confirmed that it would work.

Then she looked at the heaps of dirt and rocks we had created and said she could make it work. Over a period of three days, her crew graded the yard and made low berms, cleared out the river cobbles and Bermuda roots, installed drip lines and an automatic irrigation timer,



April 26, 2019

and placed rocks and boulders.

Olga suggested better spacing for the plants and really gave a professional touch to the design. Wow. What a difference!

Knowing how persistent Bermuda grass is, Ed did more research and came up with a solution. We put sheets of cardboard

down over the dirt and covered it with forest humus. It has been very effective.

With April around the corner, we’ve noticed the plants have almost doubled in growth from their original one-gallon size. They are also beginning to bloom and will peak around mid to late April, with some blooms continuing throughout the rest of the year. Ed and I love to look out at the native plants. We read the newspaper and watch the hummingbirds fly around. My favorite comment from him is, “I didn’t realize how much I enjoy not mowing the yard.” 🌸

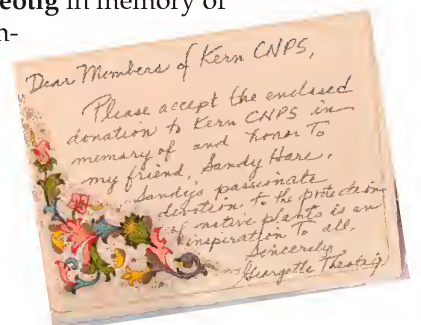


Cynodon dactylon (Bermuda grass)

Donation received In memory of Sandy Hare

by Monica Tudor, treasurer

THE CHAPTER RECEIVED A DONATION FROM **Georgette Theotig** in memory of friend, CNPS member and supporter **Sandy Hare**. 🌸



“After” photos taken May 16, 2019

Plants Available for Purchase

PLANTS LEFT FROM THE PLANT SALE ARE available for \$8 each. E-mail **Monica Tudor** to arrange for payment and pickup at dosportas@icloud.com

<u>Botanical Name/Common Name</u>	<u>Qty.</u>
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> "Island Pink" pink yarrow	1
<i>Arctostaphylos glauca</i> big berry manzanita	3
<i>Arctostaphylos pungens</i> (not native) Mexican manzanita	3
<i>Berlandiera lyrata</i> (not native) chocolate daisy	1
<i>Calylophus berlandieri</i> (not native) Berlandieri's sundrops	2
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> var. <i>polifolium</i> California buckwheat	4
<i>Eriogonum umbelliferum</i> <i>Shasta buckwheat</i> Shasta buckwheat	3
<i>Heurchera maxima</i> island alumroot	4
<i>Hyptis emorii</i> desert lavender	2
<i>Keckiella cordifolia</i> heart leaf penstemon	4
<i>Lonicera hispidula</i> California honeysuckle	3
<i>Lupinus longifolius</i> longleaf bush lupine	2
<i>Penstemon centranthifolius</i> scarlet bugler	5
<i>Penstemon etonii</i> firecracker penstemon	1
<i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i> <i>Margarita BOP</i> penstemon Margarita BOP	2
<i>Salvia apiana</i> var. <i>compacta</i> white sage compact	2
<i>Salvia dorrii</i> desert sage	1
<i>Salvia Gracias</i> creeping sage	2
<i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i> pink hybrid desert mallow	1
<i>Epilobium canum</i> "Carmen's Gray" fuchsia	3
<i>Epilobium canum</i> "Catalina" Catalina fuchsia	1
<i>Zauschneria latifolia johnstonii</i> Flaming Red Penny desert fuchsia	2



Representing CNPS at California Living Museum's 36th Birthday

by Yvonne Turkal

CALM INVITED US TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR 36th Birthday Bash, May 18. Reporter **Scott Sheahen** from 23ABC News even interviewed a young visitor in front of the beautiful banner **Dinah Campbell** created for us. **Don** and **Yvonne Turkal** brought beautiful native plant specimens from their home. **Lucy Clark, Ellen Cypher, and Brooke Stutz** brought their expert knowledge.

There were 5 free drawings: 2 books (**Kern County Flora** by **L. Maynard Moe**, and **Reimagining the California Lawn**), a packet of California native wildflower seeds, and 2 posters of *Calochortus clavatus*, along with free CNPS stickers, *Flora* publications, *Fremontia* journals, and the *Gardening with California Native Plants* brochures.

There were 1,292 visitors at CALM and a big portion put their free tickets into one of the drawing boxes for the gift they wanted. The weather was beautiful and the booth was always busy. It ended at 4pm and the rain began at 4:02pm. We made it! Great fun! 🌸



Young visitor is interviewed by local TV reporter in front of Kern Chapter CNPS banner.



Don Turkal converses with a visitor at the CNPS table at CALM's Birthday Bash, in front of wildflower display May 18, 2019.

TALKING POINTS:**Deadline Extended to Write to California Parks & Recreation Department (CaSPRD) about Red Rock Canyon State Park***by Lucy Clark*

THE COMMENT PERIOD HAS BEEN RE-OPENED at the request of the OHV Community, and the new deadline is August 1, 2019.

Write your letter now, before you get busy with ???

Those of us who appreciate Red Rock Canyon's many features — native plants (some rare or endemic), creosote ring clones, nesting raptors, geologic wonders/red cliffs, archaeological sites, MUST let the powers that be know our opinions.

ISSUE: The CaSPRD wants to **CHANGE** Red Rock Canyon's designation from a **State Park** to a **State Recreational Area**.

WHY THIS CHANGE CONFLICTS WITH EXISTING LAW:

In 1994, the *California Desert Protection Act* (CDPA) was signed into law. The law provides for certain lands within the California Desert Conservation Area to be transferred to the State of California, to become a part of Red Rock Canyon State Park. The intent, as defined in the CDPA, is to provide maximum protection for the specified area's outstanding scenic and scientific values.

This does not fit with the "Recreational Area" designation.

ALSO:

The 1982 **Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan** states that the PURPOSE of the park is to "protect and perpetuate the spectacular high desert landscape, associated natural ecosystems, and important archaeological values for public enjoyment and inspiration, and for scientific study."

This does not fit with the "Recreational Area" designation.

The park clearly **DOES** meet the **definition of a State Park** as promulgated in **California Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5019.53** — meaning, it has way too many values to be a State Recreational Area.

This stated purpose does not include OHV riders and their noise, dust, speed, burrow-crushing, plant and animal-killing off-road or trail incursions/explorations, which **are** allowed in Rec Areas.

TALKING POINT RESOURCES FOR YOUR COMMUNICATIONS:

1. We are asking that the proposed **Joint Red Rock/Onyx Operations Hub** NOT be located in Red Rock Canyon State Park. While there may be room there to park toy haulers, the increase in greenhouse gases in the park will be detrimental to the qualities that make it a park.

Jawbone Canyon, adjacent to Red Rock Canyon — just south on Hwy 14 — has a BLM office. It would protect the air quality and serenity of RRC-SP better if the CaSPRD were to rent space from the BLM, or to build a "hub" on that property.



Red Rock Canyon State Park: "ribboned" cliffs.

2. Go to our website to read **Nick Jensen's Talking Points!** https://kern.cnps.org/images/Red_Rock_Canyon_Talking_points.pdf

3. Plant surveys **NEED** to be done on all lands. They've never really been done. A new rare plant was discovered this spring.

4. There should be **no OHV use in park**. There are plenty of adjacent areas in Jawbone Canyon, Onyx Ranch, Dove Springs for that use.

5. There should **no OHV camping** in RRCSP. Build any new campgrounds on Onyx Ranch Vehicular Recreational Area land.

6. **Support YES on Concept #4** — Park values are best protected with this concept **EXCEPT** for any creation of a joint hub (*see #1 above*)

7. Resources for those who want to know more .including lots of maps:
<https://www.redrockgp.com/public-meetings>

8. Google: "**Onyx Ranch Vehicular Recreation Area**" if you want to see how much land they already have to ride on. Also BLM's "**Jawbone Canyon**"

Remember that it is persuasive to recall your **own** experiences at Red Rock Canyon State Park — tell why you like RRCSP.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS:

To comment by e-mail:

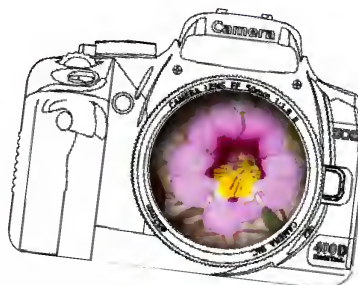
info@RedRockGP.com

Address your email to **Katie Metraux**

To comment via the U.S. Postal Service:

CA Dept of Parks and Recreation
Attn: Katie Metraux, Planning Manager
1725 23rd Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95816

When you've written your comments, drop Lucy an email and let her know you've written. ♡



Erythranthe rhodopetra (Red Rock Canyon monkeyflower) California Rare Plant Rank 1B.1 (seriously endangered, found only in the El Paso Mountains.)

Kern CNPS GARDEN TOUR APRIL 13, 2019



Photos by Nancy Nies

Monica Tudor tells participants about the native plants in her new front yard.



Steve Kranyak gives guests a tour of his native back garden.

CNPS-Kern Chapter
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Mimulus Memo

Inside this Issue:

SUPER BLOOM 2019 - PART I
CALIFORNIA & UTAH JUNIPERS IN KERN COUNTY
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DATES & TOPICS



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The Kern Chapter of the



California Native Plant Society meets
the third Thursday of each month at:
Kern County Superintendent of Schools
City Centre, Room 1A or 1B
1300 17th Street, Bakersfield, CA.
Chapter website: kern.cnps.org

The California Native Plant Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of California native plants and their natural habitats, and to increasing the understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants. CNPS has 31 chapters throughout the state and membership is open to all persons — professional and amateur — with an interest in California's native plants. Members have diverse interests including natural history, botany, ecology, conservation, photography, drawing, hiking and gardening. As a Kern County resident, your membership includes Fremontia, a quarterly journal with articles on all aspects of native plants; the Bulletin, a statewide report of activities and schedules; and The Mimulus Memo, the newsletter of the Kern Chapter.

Join CNPS or renew your membership online at www.cnps.org.

Student / Limited Income – \$25
Individual – \$45
Family or Library – \$75